

Appln No. 10/820,977

Amdt date December 21, 2004

Reply to Office action of September 22, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21 with the following paragraph:

A night vision device may be attached to a helmet through a helmet attachment mechanism which acts as an interface between a helmet mount and the helmet. In previous designs, helmet attachment mechanisms have been attached to a helmet by a strap secured around the helmet, by fasteners or most recently, by a shroud plate as described in, for example, U.S. Patent ~~Application No. 10/389,648~~ No. 6,751,810 to Prendergast, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 14 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 14 is a ~~front~~ back view of a shroud plate of the present invention having a single attachment point.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 18 with the following paragraph:

FIG. 16 is a ~~front~~ back view of an alternate embodiment of a shroud plate of the present invention having a single attachment point.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 22 with the following paragraph:

The shroud plate 210 may further contain a lock 218 connected to a release button 226 by a link plate 228 (FIG. 14). The link plate ~~[[220]]~~ 228 may be adapted to allow the release

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button 226 to be connected to the lock 218 despite the hole 252 aligned in between the release button and the lock, and the screw protruding therethrough. In the depicted embodiment, the link plate 228 may have a generally tuning-fork shape, allowing for the hole and screw to pass between the two tines of the fork. However, the exact shape of the link plate 228 is not critical as long as it allows a user to move the lock 218 by depressing the release button 226.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 28 with the following paragraph:

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGs. 15 and 16, a shroud plate 310 is adapted to be attached to a helmet having a brim. A helmet having such a brim makes difficult the placement of a release button at the bottom of a shroud plate such as described with respect to previous embodiments and as shown, for example, in FIG. 4. Rather, a base 360 of the shroud plate 310 is adapted to abut the brim of the helmet. More specifically, the base 360 of the shroud plate 310 is contoured such that when the shroud plate is attached to a helmet, the base 360 is flush with the curvature of the brim of the helmet. The abutment of the base of the shroud plate 310 with the brim of the helmet provides additional stability to the shroud plate, particularly with respect to rotational forces. Alternatively, as noted above, should the helmet not have a brim, the base 360 may project inwardly to wrap around the edge of the helmet.